

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 IO-13 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04

H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /085 W

-----084044 160604Z /21

R 142202Z JUL 77

FM AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6770

INFO AMCONSUL BELIZE

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MANAGUA

AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE

AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR

AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA

USUN NEW YORK 615

USCINCSO

C O N F I D E N T I A L GUATEMALA 4451

E.O. 11652 GDS

TAGS: PBOR, GT, BH, UK

SUBJ: FOREIGN MINISTER ON BELIZE TALKS

1. SUMMARY: FOREIGN MINISTER'S PRESS CONFERENCE WAS CHIEFLY SIGNIFICANT FOR TENTATIVE EFFORTS TO PERSUADE DOMESTIC OPINION OF NEED FOR FLEXIBLE APPROACH TO NEXT ROUND OF TALKS WITH UK. END SUMMARY.

2. BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED. FONMIN MOLINA HELD LONG-PROMISED PRESS CONFERENCE JULY 13 REGARDING RESULTS OF RECENT BELIZE TALKS. HIS PRINCIPAL POINTS WERE:

A. UK AND GUATEMALAN POSITIONS (WHICH REPORTERS DID NOT PRESS HIM TO SPECIFY) WERE STILL FAR APART. HE AGAIN DENIED THAT HE TOLD WASHINGTON PRESS THAT GOG SOUGHT JUST A PORTION OF BELIZE.

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B. REITERATED THAT MAIN ACCOMPLISHMENT OF GUATEMALA WAS LOWERING OF TENSION LEVEL AND UK "ASSURANCE- OF NO UNILATERAL GRANT OF INDEPENDENCE TO BELIZE.

C. THAT THE TIME HAS PASSED FOR "JURIDICAL" SOLUTIONS; THE SEARCH NOW IS FOR A "POLITICAL" FORMULA OFFERING

A "REALISTIC" SOLUTION THROUGH CONCILIATION OF EXTREMEN
POSITIONS VIA MUTUAL CONCESSIONS.

D. HE GAVE NOTHING AWAY IN WASHINGTON. HOWEVER, WHILE
GOG GOAL REMAINED CONTROL OF ALL BELIZE, HE LET IT BE
UNDERSTOOD THAT GUATEMALA WOULD NOT NECESSARILY DEMAND ALL
BELIZEAN TERRITORY.

E. IN ANY CASE ANY AGREEMENT NEGOTIATED WITH UK WOULD
REQUIRE BLESSING OF CONGRESS AND COUNCIL OF STATE. HE
TOUCHED ON NEED FOR POSSIBLE AMENDMENT OF THAT PART OF
CONSTITUTION CONCERNING BELIZE.

F. REAFFIRMED THAT UK MINISTER ROWLANDS IS EXPECTED
FOR "NEXT WEEK". (WE UNDERSTAND ARRIVAL NOW SET FOR
JULY 19.) ROWLANDS VISIT WOULD ESTABLISH DATE FOR NEXT
NEGOTIATING ROUND. HE DID NOT ENVISAGE "PROLONGED"
NEGOTIATIONS.

3. AFTER FORMAL PRESS CONFERENCE, SMALLER GROUP OF
REPORTERS QUESTIONED MOLINA ABOUT THE POSSIBILITY OF
TERRITORIAL CONCESSIONS. HE REPLIES, "WE SHOULD NOT
LET OURSELVES BE CARRIED AWAY BY OVERZEALOUS PATRIOTISM
THAT MIGHT LEAVE US WITH NOTHING." THIS MOST FORTHRIGHT
STATEMENT WAS NOT CARRIED IN LOCAL PRESS. END UNCLASSIFIED.

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4. BEGIN CONFIDENTIAL. COMMENT: KEY ASPECT OF MOLINA'A
PERFORMANCE WAS HIS PROMOTION OF THE NEED FOR FLEXIBILITY.
WHILE NECESSARILY DEFENSIVE, IN VIEW OF GUATEMALA'S
EMOTIONAL BAGGAGE, ON THE QUESTION OF TERRITORIAL
COMPROMISE, HE IS CLEARLY WORKING TO PREPARE DOMESTIC
OPINION FOR THAT EVENTUALITY.
BOSTER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: POLITICAL SETTLEMENT, INDEPENDENCE, PRESS CONFERENCES, NEGOTIATIONS, TERRITORIAL CLAIMS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 14-Jul-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977GUATEM04451
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770253-0917
Format: TEL
From: GUATEMALA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770759/aaaabyji.tel
Line Count: 101
Litigation Code IDs:
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Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: c426d76b-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 26-Jan-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1864783
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: FOREIGN MINISTER ON BELIZE TALKS
TAGS: PBOR, PDEV, GT, BH, UK, (MOLINA ORANTES, ADOLFO)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/c426d76b-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009